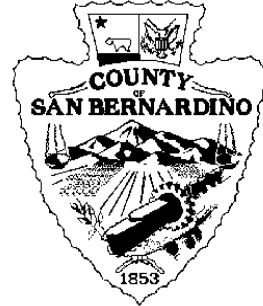


# NEWS

## From Supervisor Bill Postmus First District, San Bernardino County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **COUNTY, CITY TO PAVE ROAD FROM HESPERIA TO CAJON PASS**

-Postmus Announces Plan to Hesperia Property Owners' Association-

HESPERIA – Motorists will have another way to travel between the Cajon Pass and Hesperia by the end of next year, thanks to a new paving project announced yesterday by San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus.

Speaking to a meeting of the Hesperia Property Owners Association Wednesday evening, the First District Supervisor outlined his plan for the County, with City assistance, to pave Summit Valley Road from State Highway 138 to Hesperia. Construction is tentatively scheduled to start next summer.

"I'm happy to say that we're allocating the necessary funds and we've put the Summit Valley Road Project on the fast track," Postmus said.

The initial paving project will include 3.9 miles of new pavement, and will include rehabilitation of existing paved roadway from the southern city limit to Lurelane Avenue, with the assistance and cooperation of the City of Hesperia.

Postmus said the project is intended to provide an alternative route in case of emergency, unusual congestion or inclement weather on Interstate 15.

"It will also provide a direct route for many commuters, of which a large number already use the existing dirt road," Postmus added.

Other benefits include accommodating future growth, improving safety and driving comfort, reducing maintenance costs, improving drainage and reducing dust.

Hesperia Mayor Dennis Nowicki called the Summit Valley Road project "another strong indicator of Supervisor Postmus' commitment to the Hesperia community.

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"This project, with city participation, will have a very positive impact on thousands of residents in the southern part of the City and will help reduce the commuter gridlock on Main Street and Bear Valley Roads," Nowicki said.

The paved roadway will be 26 feet wide with dirt shoulders. Cost of the project is estimated at \$1,419,704. Of this amount, \$1.1 million will come from Measure "I" funds from the County's half-cent sales tax, and the remaining \$319,704 will come from gasoline tax dollars received by the County. An as-yet-undetermined amount will be spent by the City of Hesperia for portions of the roadway within the incorporated boundaries of the City.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to approve the necessary environmental documentation on October 21. Topographic surveys and design work is scheduled to be completed by December 2003. Final design and construction specifications should be complete by this winter, and construction should begin by Summer 2004.

Plans are also being developed to eventually transform Summit Valley Road into a major thoroughfare. "We hope that eventually we can start widening and realigning the roadway to make it faster and even safer for the driving public," Postmus said.

The "ultimate" project would widen the roadway to four lanes with 64 feet between curbs. It would include major drainage structures to prevent flooding, and would be re-profiled to improve sight distance and increase safe driving speeds.

In an effort to secure funding for the eventual project, the County last year submitted a request to Congress for \$15 million in Transportation Enhancement Act or Public Lands Highway funds.

Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands) has included a \$500,000 appropriation in the current proposed Transportation and Treasury Appropriations Bill to assist with design costs and environmental studies required for the project.

Local funds would also be required to complete the project, and would potentially come from gasoline taxes, the County half-cent sales tax (if voters renew the tax in November 2004), and City of Hesperia participation.

Postmus thanked the City of Hesperia for agreeing to participate in the project. "This will help meet a critical infrastructure need for the City of Hesperia," Postmus said.

"When I first took office 33 months ago, I saw paving Summit Valley road as a critical

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unmet need in our transportation system; but it wasn't even on the County's radar screen," added Postmus. "We were many, many years from even adding this project to our list of future projects.

"But when you consider the kind of growth we're seeing in Hesperia and Oak Hills, it's obvious that we need alternative access to Highway 138 and the Cajon Pass. That's why I decided to make this project a top priority."

Postmus said the project is part of his ongoing effort to strengthen the County's relationship with the City of Hesperia, which had been at odds with the County over tax-sharing and equity issues since the City's incorporation in 1988.

Wednesday's announcement marked the second time Postmus brought good news to the City in as many weeks. Last week the Supervisor announced his proposal to increase the City's property tax share for newly annexed areas from the current 1.59% to a new level of 7%. The proposal, scheduled for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, could also benefit the High Desert cities of Adelanto and Victorville, and the Inland Valley cities of Chino Hills, Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga.